

# News FROM Kyrgyzstan

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2014 • NUMBER 10(74) • THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## Official visit of **Senior Vice President of JICA** in the Kyrgyz Republic

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**COUNTRY PROJECT**



Photos from [www.gov.kg](http://www.gov.kg)

At the beginning of October 2014, Senior Vice President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Mr. Hideaki Domichi arrived from Japan for an official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic. During his visit, Mr. Domichi met with the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Djoomart Otorbaev. During the meeting, the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic expressed his gratitude to Mr. Domichi for the assistance given to a number of projects in the Kyrgyz Republic and noted that cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Japan International Cooperation Agency has had positive results. In turn, Mr. Domichi expressed interest in strengthening bilateral relations and noted the support for the Kyrgyz Republic would include a

wide range of economic, social, and investment issues. Further, the parties discussed the current situation of joint projects, such as the road rehabilitation project, "Osh-Batken-Isfana", and the improvement of equipment at the Manas International Airport. The Head of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic informed Senior Vice President, Mr. Hideaki Domichi about the procedures for bilateral agreements within the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the ratification of the projects mentioned above in the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition, the leaders exchanged opinions about the election process that is planned in 2015 in the Kyrgyz Republic and noted the importance of transparent elections for democratic development. ●

High-Ranking Official Study Tour on "OVOP" experience



All participants

Learning organic farming practices through an exchange visit to Jalalabad



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Healthy lifestyle = healthy life



Practical lessons

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## PROJECT NEWS

### High-Ranking Official Study Tour on “OVOP” experience



Official meeting

**High-ranking government** officials of Afghanistan and Tajikistan, country directors of UNDP, ADB, and country representatives of JICA and other program officers of the UNDP & JICA visited the JICA Project called “Community Empowerment through Small Business Promotion by One Village One Product approach in the Issyk-Kul Region” (OVOP project) on October 28 –

November 1, 2014. They observed that the main activity of the project was targeted at the establishment of the sustainable small business model through the OVOP approach emphasizing stable management of the OVOP Association by local communities, production enhancement of profitable OVOP products, improvement of their quality, and formation of beneficial mar-

keting & export relationships.

Besides visiting workshops, shops, and other OVOP product sales points, guests from Afghanistan and Tajikistan took part in and observed a Stakeholders’ Meeting on October 31 in Karakol, where OVOP results from 2014 were presented and some issues were jointly discussed.

By the end of the Study Tour, the guests from Afghanistan and Tajikistan were eager and very determined to use the One Village One Product approach as a tool for regional empowerment and community driven development activities in the regions of their countries. And they expressed hope for further close cooperation with the OVOP project in Kyrgyzstan and for its support in starting to launch OVOP activities in their countries. ●

## Learning **organic farming** practices through an exchange visit to Jalalabad

**On October 9-10, 2014** an exchange visit took place in the Jalalabad region. The objective was to introduce the Bio-cotton Project’s experience and activities focusing on techniques for soil fertility preservation and improvement through crop rotation, vermicomposting, application of beneficial insects, etc. It was organized under the Organic Farming Project in partnership with Helvestas. A total of 17 persons including project pilot farmers, counterpart staff from the National Agrarian University and Vocational school No 43 took part in this visit. Over the course of two days, the participants visited and learned about the activities of a bio laborato-

ry, seed farm, cotton cleaning plant, vegetable storage, bio-humus farm, solar greenhouse, and more. The visit was productive as participants obtained a lot of useful information and discovered the benefits of organic farming. ●



During discussion

## JICA IN THE MEDIA

*“Representative of Embassy of Japan and State Personal Department discussed issues related to Human Resource Development (JDS project) for 2015-2016”. The Members of Operating Committee of the JDS project discussed further implementation of the project, procedures of selection of candidates and other issues.*

**www.aklpress.kg**  
September 3, 2014

*“JICA provide 16 million USD for updating aero navigation equipment of International airport ?Manas”. Minister of Transport and Communication, Mr. Sultanov informed Parliament Committee on International affairs about Grant Aid project on Improvement of the equipment for International airport “Manas”.*

**www.knews.kg**  
September 8, 2014

*“Prolongation of OVOP project for 1.5 years is taking into account”. Coordination committee on the OVOP project was conducted on October 16, 2014. High effectiveness of the project was mentioned by Counterparts and issue of prolongation was announced.*

**www.tazabek.kg**  
October 17, 2014

## CALENDAR\*

### NOVEMBER

- 20** Mission on new Forestry project
- 25** Opening ceremony of green house in Naryn oblast

### DECEMBER

- 7-13** Preparatory survey mission on avalanche protection project
- 7-13** Project of improvement of road equipment workshop

\*dates may be changed



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## Supporting the promotion of foreign investments in the Kyrgyz Republic

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*Fruitful discussion*

**Kyrgyzstan, like all post-soviet countries, suffers a lack of foreign investment in the economy of the country and needs support in the development of this sector.** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) realizes the severity of this problem and has started a project to promote foreign investment in Kyrgyzstan. The project was initiated

by Ministry of Economy of KR.

Within the framework of this project, on September 16, 2014 a presentation was held in a large hall of Ministry of Economy of KR, on the topic "Japanese companies looking to invest abroad in general, and in Kyrgyzstan in particular". The presentation was prepared and conducted by the Japanese Research Company, Daiwa Research Institute, and commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Representatives of the Investment Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Economy of KR, Ministry of Finance of KR, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of KR and Business associations participated in the event. The presentation was based on findings

identified during three seminars that were held in in Japan in July 2014 about the investment potential of Kyrgyzstan. These were part of a program, "research on the collection of a database on investment opportunities for business promotion in the Kyrgyz Republic". ●



*Counterparts of event*

## General Assembly of JOCV in Bishkek

**On the 14th of October** the 13th Kyrgyz Republic Volunteer Assembly was held at the Dostuk Hotel in Bishkek. JICA experts and their families also participated in the first part of assembly, because at this time there were discussions about their security and healthcare.

A JICA expert working with the "bridge and tunnel maintenance" project also participated in this event, he discussed the condition of bridges in Kyrgyzstan, about problems and possible solutions, necessary measures.

During the second part of the assembly, two volunteers showed how they are conducting their activities at their assigned locations.

One of them conducts classes on ecology at a

secondary school in Cholpon Ata city. The other is providing training in rugby. He is working as a coach in the Physical training Academy of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In addition, all the volunteers talked about life in the Kyrgyz Republic while observing graphics which explained life as a volunteer such as mood swings, state of mind, and more. Most volunteers participated in the General Assembly than last year. ●



*Presentation by JOCV*

## New JOCV in Kyrgyzstan



*On a way to Kyrgyzstan*

**In the beginning of October,** six new Japanese volunteers arrived to Kyrgyzstan. One of them was dispatched to a kinder garden under the Ministry of Healthcare in Bishkek. This particular work is a first for JICA and we hope that it will be a fruitful cooperation. The second volunteer came to Kyrgyzstan to work in Kyrgyz Republic Japan Center of Human Development. Three volunteers were dispatched to the Issik Kul oblast. One volunteer will work in a secondary school named

Kirov in Cholpon Ata city as a PC instructor. Another volunteer will work in the mayor's office in Cholpon Ata city in the economic development department. The third volunteer was dispatched to the Kara-Oi village, she will work as a designer with local jamaat "Elayim". The last volunteer was dispatched to the Naryn oblast state administration in the agrarian development department. All of them started their activity beginning on November 10<sup>th</sup>. ●



*New JOCV*

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## Healthy lifestyle=healthy life

In September 2014 the JICA Alumni Association conducted seminars "Prevention of cardiovascular diseases" in two remote regions of the country: Ak-Talaa area (Naryn province) and Batken town (Batken Province).

The seminar was aimed at: 1) raising awareness about cardiovascular system diseases, their causes, symptoms and preventative measures; 2) teaching the measurement of blood pressure, identifying the difference between the pressures at rest and after activity; 3) explaining the necessity to have a healthy lifestyle and gaining a sense of care regarding their health.

The target group of the seminar were representatives of local authorities, health authorities (Family Health Centers, Medical-Obstetrical Centers), Media, and local communities (activists and leaders). In total more than 100 people participated in the seminars.

So, in order to find out the level of awareness about cardiovascular system diseases, the organizers distributed questionnaires to the participants (participants were

united in several groups). Each group discussed and replied to the questions, which helped lecturers to understand which subjects they should spend more time on and which not.



During the seminar

And the first part of the seminar was theoretical, where lectures made presentations about cardiovascular system diseases such as: stenocardia, myocardial infarction, stroke, pancreatic diabetes, high blood pressure, their symptoms, causes, symptoms, first aid, and preventive measures related to these diseases. Thus, the participants understood that healthy lifestyle (for instance exercising and following proper nutrition) is the most

important thing for prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

The second part of the seminar was spent working in groups and was devoted to practical exercises in determining body mass index, measurement of blood pressure. In this way the practical exercises helped participants consolidate all the material covered during the seminar.

The final part of the seminar was dedicated to conducting a final questionnaire, which was necessary to learn participants' interests regarding upcoming themes for seminars. As it turns out, most participants were interested in the next seminar covering oncological diseases. ●



Presentation

## Regional Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia

The Second Regional Ministerial Conference on Disaster Management Authorities of Central Asian countries under the "Central Asia + Japan Dialogue" was held in Bishkek on September 18-19, 2014. It was supported financially and technically by the UNDP project, funded by the Government of Japan, "Strengthening disaster response and risk assessment capacities in the Kyrgyz Republic and facilitating a regional dialogue for cooperation".

It brought together more than 70 delegates from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, JICA HQ in Tokyo, ADRC in Kobe Japan, diplomatic corps, UNESCAP in Bangkok, UNODRR in Central Asia and South Caucasus, UNOCHA, UNDP COs in the region, as well as international, scientific and non-governmental organizations. The decision to conduct Conference was made during the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the country-members of "Central Asia + Japan" Dialogue, held on July 16, 2014 in Bishkek,

During the Conference, participants elaborated recommendations on the most important joint actions, giving, in my opinion, even greater impetus to strengthening regional cooperation in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction. The Conference also met at a crucial stage in the international preparations for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction planned for March 2015 in Sendai, Japan on the adoption of a post-2015 global development agenda.

### Contact Us

News from Kyrgyzstan is a bimonthly newsletter which focuses on JICA's international perspectives and its involvement in local economic development. This newsletter details the work of JICA in the Kyrgyz Republic.

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**JICA** (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is the world's largest bilateral aid agency providing various forms of assistance in over 150 countries around the world.